In the Claims

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second frame;

relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame; **[[and]]**

cross-connecting said time slots**;**

selecting at least one of said time slots;

receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

outputting said outgoing time slots.

57.-58. **(Cancelled)**

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

extracting said network management information; and

routing said network management information.

61. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connecting comprises**[[:]]** **said selecting said at least one of said time slots.**

~~**selecting at least one of said time slots.**~~

62. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

means for relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second frame;

means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame; **[[and]]**

means for cross-connecting said time slots**;**

means for selecting at least one of said time slots;

means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

63-65. **(Cancelled)**

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for extracting said network management information; and

means for routing said network management information.

67. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said means for cross-connecting comprises**[[:]]** **said means for selecting.**

~~**means for selecting at least one of said time slots.**~~

68. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-connect said time slots[[,]] ;

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots;

a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a plurality of incoming time slots;

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

an eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output said outgoing time slots; and

computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said computer readable storage media.

69.-71 **(Cancelled)**

72. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

a ~~**fourth**~~ **ninth** set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said network management information; and

a ~~**fifth**~~ **tenth** set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.